

Regular Meeting – June 18, 2024

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Kemp presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Terry Evans, Heather Seibles, Melvin Ellison, and Clarence McNeill, Jr. Commissioner Jan Tedder-Rogers was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Jerome Chestnut, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Deputy Town Clerk Rodney Cain, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included James Hunt, Vanessa Abernathy, Ann Hughes, Andrea Hughes, and several citizens.

Call to Order and Invocation

Mayor Charles Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pastor James Hunt of Fairmont Northside Church of God, gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Presentation

Mayor Kemp recognized Ann Hughes, Gertrude Conner, Maxie Pittman, Bobby Faulk and Andrea Hughes for volunteering to help with food/refreshments at senior bingo and town employee luncheons.

Public Hearing – Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

Commissioner Seibles made a motion to go into public hearing at 6:11 p.m. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to discuss the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget. The budget includes a 2.5% cost of living pay raise for employees but keeps the utility and tax rates the same. The General fund budget is \$2,725,165, Powell Bill fund is \$99,095, and the Water/Sewer fund is \$1,681,613.

There was no public input on the public hearing for fiscal year 2023-2024 budget.

Commissioner Seibles made a motion to add \$2,500 to the budget for an annual Juneteenth celebration. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to come out of the public hearing at 6:20 p.m. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Vanessa Abernathy – Juneteenth history

Ms. Vanessa Abernathy gave a brief history of Juneteenth when Texas was notified on June 19, 1865, of the Emancipation Proclamation officially abolishing slavery in the United States.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Commissioner Evans and seconded by Commissioner Ellison, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda item:

Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, May 21, 2024, and Budget Workshops, June 4, 2024, and June 11, 2024.

Old Business

There was no old business this month.

New Business

Ordinance 24-259 - Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

Commissioner Ellison made a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget in the amount of \$4,529,105. Commissioner - seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 1 as follows:

For:	Commissioners Ellison, Evans, McNeill, and Seibles
Against:	Commissioner McCree
Absent:	Commissioner Tedder-Rogers

A signed copy of the ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Selection of Contractor for Brownfields Assessment Grant – Terracon Consultants Inc.

The EPA has awarded a Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant (Cooperative Agreement Number BF02D63123 to the Town of Fairmont in the amount of \$500,000. The project and budget period are from July 7, 2023, through September 3, 2027. The purpose of this grant is to identify and assess any properties in the Town of Fairmont with environmental-related issues.

The town advertised the Request for Proposals on May 1, 2024, with bids due on June 3, 2024. A total of seven RFQs were received through state, regional, local, and direct solicitations. A review committee of Jerome Chestnut (Town Manager), Jennifer Larson (Finance Director, Town Clerk), and Ronnie Seals met on June 17, 2024, to discuss and score the RFQs (See attached). The bids were opened at 330pm and closed at 5pm on June 17, 2024. Terracon Consultants, Inc from Myrtle Beach, SC was the top scoring company.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to select Terracon Consultants, Inc. as the contractor for the Brownfields Assessment Grant. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Input

The commissioners thanked the citizens for coming to the meeting.

Mayor Input

Mayor Kemp announced there will be a job fair on Wednesday, June 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Representatives from Campbell Soup will be present.

Announcements

Wednesday, June 19 – Town offices closed in observance of Juneteenth.

Thursday, June 27 – Special Board meeting to adopt Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget and Amended Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Sunday, June 30 – Fairmont’s Fantastic Fourth Fireworks featuring the Pizazz Band. Music begins at 5:00 p.m. with fireworks at 9:30 p.m. in the Fairmont Community Park

Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5 – Town offices closed in observance of Independence Day

Tuesday, July 16 – Regular Town Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Heritage Center

Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Commissioner Ellison seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Jennifer H. Larson
Town Clerk